

Further, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the claim division and include new claim 21 in the elected group. The Examiner identified methods of producing a polypeptide as being in another claim group. Applicants are presenting new claim 21, dependent on the elected claims, drawn to methods of producing a peptide using the claimed nucleic acid molecules. The dependent claim 21 provides a specific use of the subject matter and it is believed that examination of this claim would not unduly burden the Examiner with additional review issues.

Election of Species

Examiner's species election requirement is unclear, however, applicants hereby elect the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:855 for examination. Applicants claim any nucleic acid sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:855, for example, SEQ ID NO:854.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-14, and 16-20 as being directed to non-elected subject matter or being made redundant by way of the amendments below.

Please amend claims 4 and 15 as follows:

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:855;

(b) a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:854;

(c) a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:853; and

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A₁

(d) a nucleic acid molecule that is completely complementary to a nucleic acid molecule f (a)-(c).

A₂

15. (Amended) A method for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 in a sample, the method comprising

contacting the sample with an oligonucleotide comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides that hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule under stringent conditions, wherein the stringent condition is hybridization in 6X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SCC, 0.1% SDS at 50-65°C, and

determining whether the oligonucleotide binds to the nucleic acid molecule in the sample.

Please add the following new claims 21-26:

-21. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 8 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering the peptide from the host cell culture.

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22. An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:854.

23. An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:853.

24. A vector according to claim 6, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, virus, and bacteriophage.

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25. A vector according to claim 6, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that the protein of SEQ ID NO:855 may be expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

26. A vector according to claim 25, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence. --
